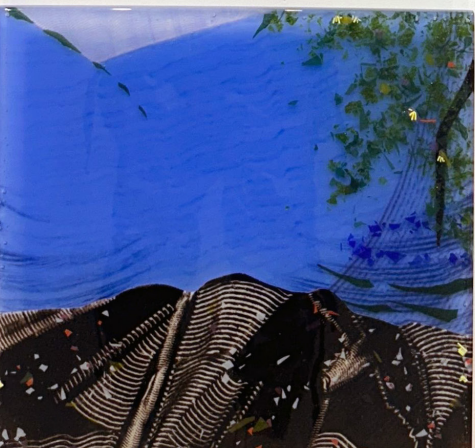
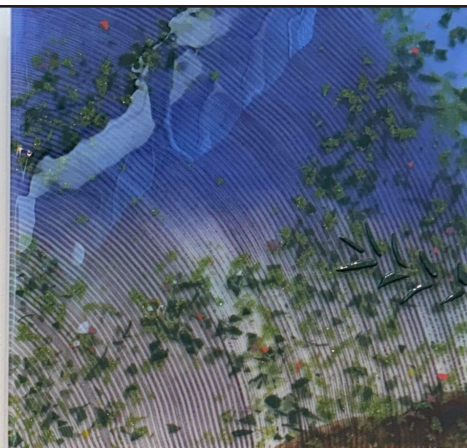
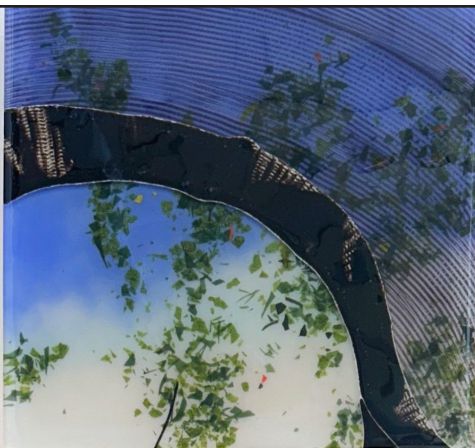
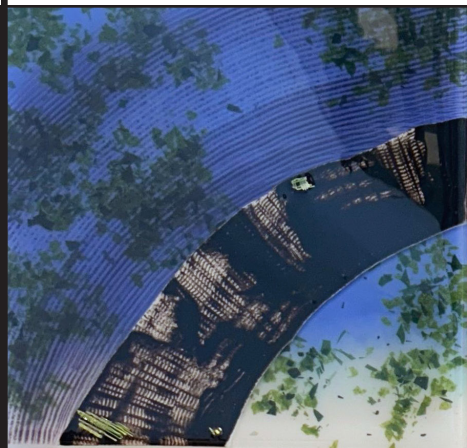


The

SUMMIT



GROSSMONT COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWS MEDIA | APRIL 2025



PAINTINGS BY CATHY COVERLY,
SAN DIEGO RIVER ARTISTS' ALLIANCE

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The staff of *The Summit* is enrolled in an academic media news production course. A main function of *The Summit* is to provide a professional learning experience for students of any major classification who express an interest in journalism and have completed an introductory news writing course. To serve this function, *The Summit* is entirely student-run. Student editors are responsible for all editorial decisions, content and editing. The instructor/ adviser is available for training, guidance and advice, but has no control over the content or editing of the newspaper. Prior review is not exercised. These guidelines have been established to protect the First Amendment freedoms guaranteed to the student press, as well as a guarantee of valuable learning experience in all aspects of newspaper management for the students. **Please direct all inquiries, comments and letters to the editor to summit@gcccd.edu.**

The SUMMIT

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SUMMIT STAFF

Editor-in-Chief: Nathaly Estremera

Deputy Editor: Saul Ruiz

Staff Writers

Oscar Alcon, Daneyra Ramirez, Anthony Seaton,
Philicia Tonangoye, Sandra Vidrio

Adviser: Jeanette Calo

GROSSMONT-CUYAMACA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

8800 Grossmont College Drive
El Cajon, CA 92020
619-644-7454 | grossmont.edu

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SUMMIT STAFF

What album best captures your spring vibe?

PHILICIA TONANGOYE

My spring vibe album is *Loud* by Rihanna; this album represents the season perfectly to me and brings up such nostalgia every single time I listen to it, and it always ensures a perfect transition into summer.

DANEYRA RAMIREZ

Mine is *Rumors (Deluxe)* by Fleetwood Mac. When I think of spring, I think warmer days and flowers blooming. This album has a nice balance of songs with more upbeat ones to dance and twirl to, while also having slower ballads—making it a nice soundtrack as we move through a new season.

SAUL RUIZ

My spring vibe album is *Cherry Bomb* by Tyler, The Creator. Spring is a season that marks the shift between the winter cold and summer warmth. *Cherry Bomb*'s vibrant shiftiness perfectly encapsulates that energy for me.

SANDRA VIDRIO

My spring vibe album is *La Vida de Otros* by Costa De Ámbar because I associate spring with a fresh breeze brushing my face and moving my hair, and I get the same feeling every time I listen to this album.

NATHALY ESTREMERA

My spring vibe album is *Sunburn* by Dominic Fike. As the days get longer and the sun starts to feel a bit warmer, the more I start to anticipate what summer has in store. *Sunburn* is the perfect album to play during this transitional season, as it sets the vibe of a nostalgic warm summer night.

OSCAR ALCON

My spring vibe album is *Funk Wav Bounces Vol. 1* by Calvin Harris because it's such an amazing and positive album that gives me joy, especially the song *Rollin'*. The album also gets me ready for the summer.

ANTHONY SEATON

My spring vibe album is Luke Bryan's *Crash My Party* because it demonstrates life's simple joys through its music, particularly the song *Play It Again*. Each track on the album unfolds a story shared by Bryan, inviting listeners to relive those moments, deeply resonating with many listeners, perfect for the springtime vibes.

FACING THE SLUMP

We are halfway to the end of the semester, and as students, it's easy to feel we've hit an academic slump. We're not as motivated or determined and, well, quite frankly, exhausted.

Nonetheless, as we step into spring, the sun feels a little warmer, smiles shine a bit brighter, and we're reminded we can turn to our advisers for guidance and motivation. We can use resources available on campus, whether it's attending workshops or just sitting with a fur baby in the library, thanks to the Love on a Leash pet therapy program.

This month, I'd like to take a moment to recognize the individuals who continue to keep us moving forward. Whether it's our dedicated faculty, staff, administrators or fellow peers—thank you for fostering the strong, supportive community we're so fortunate to be a part of.



Nathaly Estremera,
Editor-in-Chief

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

At *The Summit*, we are very concerned with the quality of our journalism. If you spot a factual error, please contact us at summit@gcccd.edu.

MARCH C&C

Page 9 Clarification: In a story about CAPS charging for parking, it was implied the hours of operation of Griffin Grill and Java Market were cut due to lower revenue from not charging students for parking. According to Sheree Stopper, vice president of Administrative Services, the hours of the cafes and their funding are not related to parking fees. Parking revenue is used to support the road, parking structures and safety of the campus and its students. The funding for the eateries in Griffin Center is sales-based and has no relation to parking fees.



Grossmont's Campus and Parking Services team, a.k.a. CAPS, handle campus safety concerns along with a sheriff's deputy from the San Diego County Sheriff's Office.

Grossmont's Campus and Parking Services team, also known as CAPS, is dedicated to ensuring safety among all students and faculty at the college. These events on campus were among those noted on the crime log* since our last issue:

- **March 6:** Reports of a suspicious person on campus were made. The deputy contacted the person in question, warning them not to be on campus because of their behavior toward students.
- **March 12:** A student claimed another student struck their vehicle while parking.
- **March 13:** Medical assistance was needed for a pregnant student. The local fire department handled the situation and advised law enforcement was not required.

*The Clery Act is a federal statute requiring colleges participating in federal financial aid programs to maintain and disclose campus crime statistics and security information. A daily crime log is kept allowing the public to view the most recent information.

CAMPUS CALENDER* COMPILED BY PHILICIA TONANGOYE

APRIL

- 15, 30:** Blood Drive, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (Main Quad)
16: Health & Wellness Fair, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Main Quad) | Love on a Lash Pet Therapy, noon to 1 p.m. (Library first floor)
23, 24: ASGC Elections, Midnight to 11:45 p.m. (Online)
29: 4th Annual Refugee Job Fair, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Main Quad)
30: ASGC Election results posted, Noon (Online)

MAY

- 3:** Last Chance to Drop with a "W"
5: Summer Registration Begins, 8 a.m. (Online)
6: A.R.C. Social Hour, noon to 1 p.m. (60-120)

ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

- APRIL 14:** The Arab World: Culture, History, and Traditions, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Main Quad)
APRIL 23: Arab World Music: A Journey Through Sound, 6 to 9 p.m. (PVAC)
APRIL 29: Refugee Resource and Job Fair, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Main Quad)
MAY 15 - JUNE 30: A Walk Through Palestine: A Pre-1948 Exhibit (Hyde Art Gallery)

MUSIC

- APRIL 11:** Grossmont Jazz/Afro-Cuban concert, 7:30 p.m. (PVAC) \$
MAY 1: Music Major Recital, (PVAC) 2 to 4 p.m.

DANCE

- MAY 8-10:** Entrances and Exits, 7:30 p.m. (PVAC) \$

CULINARY ARTS FINE DINING SERIES

- April 17, 24; May 8, 5:15 to 7 p.m. (60-173) \$

CAREER CENTER EVENTS (60-140)

- APRIL 11:** Creating an Elevator Pitch, 10 to 11 a.m. | Job Interview Preparation, 11 a.m. to noon
APRIL 18: Professional Etiquette, 10 to 11 a.m. | Empathy & Self-Awareness, 11 a.m. to noon.
APRIL 25: Unlock your Leadership Potential, 10 to 11 a.m. | Mastering the Art of Networking, 11 a.m. to noon.
MAY 2: Problem-Solving, 10 to 11 a.m. | Entrepreneurial Mindset, 11 a.m. to noon
MAY 6: Pathways to Work: Info Session, 1 to 2 p.m.
MAY 7: Exploring Majors Workshop, 11 a.m. to noon

FYE EVENT

- APRIL 21-23, 28-30; MAY 1:** Enroll into Spring 2025, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Building 10, FYE front desk)

HEALTH & WELLNESS

- APRIL 11, MAY 2:** Cardiovascular Technology Previews, noon to 1:30 p.m. (34-210)
APRIL 23: Respiratory Therapy Previews, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. (32-212)

*Events subject to change; visit grossmont.edu for online meeting logins and latest info. | \$ Indicates admission cost

EASTER WORD SEARCH

APRIL
BASKET
BUNNY
CHICK
CHOCOLATE
CHOCOLATE EGGS
EASTER
EGG HUNT
JELLY BEANS
PEEPS
SPRING
SUNDAY

P G K G P N S N Z C H O C O L A T E I G
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Y G X D P A T O E W E X Z T G J V L P F
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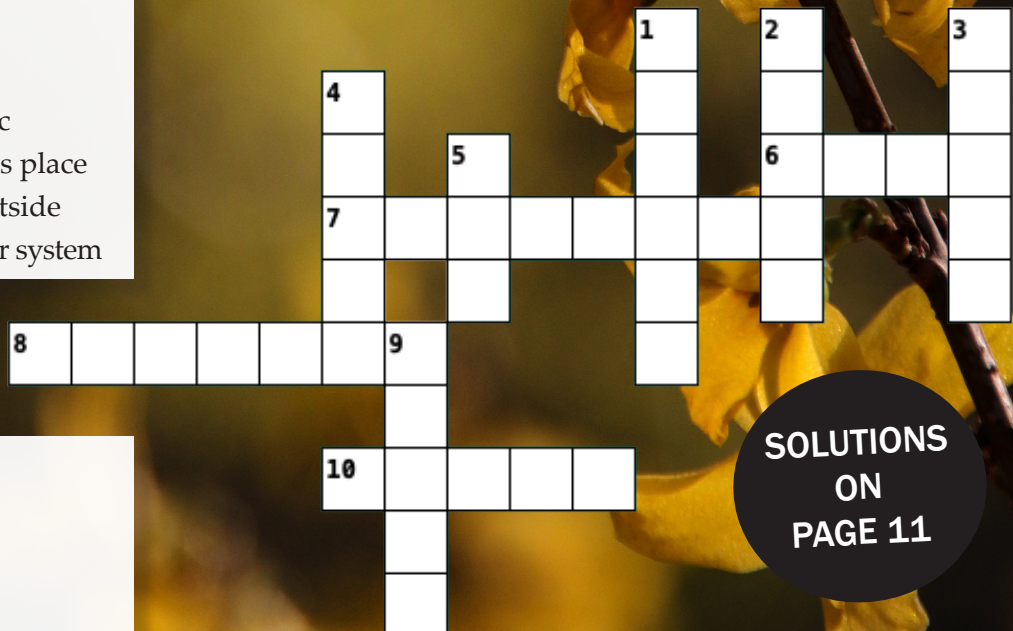
DOWN

1. _____ warming
2. _____ bottle
3. Pacific, Indian, Atlantic
4. Month Earth Day takes place
5. Where we get light outside
9. Third planet in our solar system

EARTH DAY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

6. Oak, redwood, palm
7. _____ bags
8. Two-wheeled ride
10. Earth Day's color



SOLUTIONS
ON
PAGE 11

THE RIVER'S ESSENCE

STORY BY ANTHONY SEATON

DESIGN BY HAILEY WEST

The Hyde shows the San Diego River through artists' eyes.

The Hyde Art Gallery at Grossmont College is presenting *One River, Many Stories*, an exhibition running through April 24 that explores the San Diego River through the work of a dozen regional artists.

The exhibition, a collaboration with the San Diego River Artists' Alliance, showcases diverse artistic interpretations of the river, highlighting its multifaceted importance as a source of beauty, a vital ecosystem and a connection to the region's past, present and future.

"It sparks memories," said Joseph Galloway, an attendee at the exhibit. "Art is its own language, it connects us across generations."

The opening reception, held March 25, drew a significant crowd.

"Walking through the galleries, I feel like I'm rediscovering the world through the eyes of an artist," said Kathy Miller, a former Grossmont student. "The beauty of these stories come alive."

The exhibition features artists who have been immersed in the landscapes and stories surrounding the San Diego River, which stretches from the Cuyamaca Mountains to the Pacific Ocean.

Twelve artists are on display at the gallery. The work includes acrylic, photography, mixed media, glass, watercolor, oil, fiber arts and paper.

Featured artists include Kathryn Gail Ackley, Sue Britt, Gloria Chadwick, Cathy Coverley, Vicky DeLong, Kenda Francis, Jodie Hulden, Natasha Papousek, Louise Russell, Janet Wytrych and many more.

Among the featured artists are Susan Osborn, Joan Boyer, Cathy Coverley and Kenda Francis, whose individual connections to the river and artistic approaches were recently highlighted in the gallery.

Osborn, inspired by camping at Mission Trails Campground, translates her connection to the river into mixed-media works.

"My paintings and drawings," she said, "are

composed from the impressions and images in my mind," derived from photographs and direct observations of natural elements around Kumeyaay Lake and the Old Padre Dam.

Boyer's watercolor and oil paintings capture the river's avian life, particularly within Mission Trails Regional Park.

"Birds are everywhere around Kumeyaay Lake," Boyer said. "Hearing and seeing them feeding, courting, nesting, and raising their young is a gift."

Coverley, who lived in a cottage over the river as a child, explores the river's fluidity through cast glass sculptures. "In 1951, my family moved to San Diego, where we lived in a cottage on pier pilings over the river," she recalled.

Francis creates art that highlights animal conservation. "I am intensely driven to create art that asks my audience to face not only the supreme beauty of animals but also the struggles they endure to survive today," she said.

The exhibition also features eight other artists' unique stories, offering a multifaceted artistic exploration of the river's journey by showcasing artists' unique perspectives, aiming to capture the essence and significance of the river through their diverse artistic interpretations.

The event will also provide an opportunity for a deeper engagement with the artwork and the artists' individual connections to the river.

The alliance artists are dedicated to capturing the essence of the San Diego River's journey, sharing its beauty and significance in their artwork and bringing awareness about the San Diego Watershed.

Tim Cliffe, a Grossmont Earth Sciences professor, promoted the exhibition in an Instagram reel, saying: "I love what they're doing at the Hyde Gallery here at Grossmont College regarding the San Diego River."

Hyde Art Gallery exhibitions and events are free and open to the public. The gallery is open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 🐾



AUTISM

ACCEPTANCE

STORY BY SANDRA VIDRIO
DESIGN BY G. BERCU

The A.R.C. hosts autism awareness event on campus April 24.

The Accessibility Resource Center, also known as A.R.C., is hosting an Autism Awareness and Acceptance event April 24 to educate the college community about autism by creating “fun and engaging” activities on campus.

The student population at Grossmont includes people with disabilities who may not feel integrated into the student community. According to Harrison Pattengill, a former Grossmont student, people tend to treat you differently when they become aware you have a disability such as autism.

“Whether it’s intentional or not intentional, it just makes learning more difficult,” Pattengill said.

According to Henry Cohn-Gelter, an A.R.C. counselor, autism awareness and acceptance is “very important” to

the support center as it wants to ensure all students feel a sense of belonging on campus, emphasizing the importance of educating the school community about autism to promote inclusion and reduce stigma. That’s why A.R.C. is holding this autism awareness event on campus for the first time.

The event, which is being promoted through flyers posted on campus and the A.R.C. Instagram page (@grossmontcollegearc), will consist of three main activities for students to “have a good time and enjoy the experience.”

The first activity will be held in the main quad by the Department of Rehabilitation, who provide vocational career and employment services for individuals with disabilities.

“They will be providing a presentation

on autism and hopefully share their services with Grossmont students,” Cohn-Gelter said.

Also on the quad, A.R.C. is hosting a hands-on crafting activity about painting rocks while learning about autism. They will distribute books written by autistic authors, giving students the opportunity to read about autism written from an autistic perspective.

Lastly, the Griffin Center will be opening its doors to the film “Autism Goes to College.” According to Cohn-Gelter, this film is a documentary telling the story of students attending California state universities, their experiences and how they try to navigate higher education.

The entire student community is invited to this event.✂



BUILDING THE FUTURE

Grossmont's construction projects look forward.

Grossmont College has been around for more than 60 years, and current construction is expected to keep it around for that much more.

Some of the buildings around campus are still standing from when the college opened up back in 1961, but now the school decided to do a major renovation and build brand new and advanced buildings for its students.

The college has been in construction ever since 2005, and it's taken years just to plan everything out, including how the classes should be renovated, how the campus should be more accessible and how safe the school should be.

Currently, buildings 51-55 should be completed by the summer of 2026, and the 200s buildings will be up next.

Sheree Stopper, the vice president of Administrative Services, said the instructors who taught in the 51-55 buildings before the construction project, will move back for Fall 2026. Then the teachers from the 200 buildings will move to the 100s modular buildings while their section of the campus is being renovated.

Another project the college will be focusing on will be the gym, which is slotted for the summer of 2027.

"We have more projects planned in 2027 after the gym, building 51-55, and the 200 buildings are finished, but we'll need more bonds from the city," said Loren Holmquist, the director of Campus Facilities and Operations.

Construction will be going on for a while here at Grossmont, and it'll probably affect students' trying to park their cars and walk to class. But at the end of the day, the school will become one of the most technologically advanced community colleges around, which will be beneficial for future students and for the community. ♡

STORY BY OSCAR ALCON
DESIGN BY GENESIS ARIAS

COOP TO CRISIS

Bird flu impacts closer to home than many realize.

Another strain of influenza to keep an eye on: Avian influenza, most popularly known as the “bird flu,” has affected more Americans than most realize.

This flu mainly affects domestic poultry, such as chickens, ducks, turkeys and geese, but can infect cats, cows and dogs. Although cases within humans are rare, it isn’t impossible.

Those who are in close contact with infected birds for a prolonged time are at higher risk. Since this particular flu can spread through air, it is not easily transmitted through contact, so human-to-human transmission is low.

Symptoms can be as mild as congestion to as severe as pneumonia or multi-organ failure, resulting in death.

In February, San Diego experienced its first case when a house cat died after consumption of raw food and an El Cajon-based cat food company, Savage Cat Food, issued a recall after two pets got sick. Though the two cases are unrelated, fear has struck the hearts of fur parents.

However, this outbreak has affected everyone, not just those who are sick, as it has caused a shortage in America’s most popular source of protein: chicken. The number of eggs being produced by hens has also significantly decreased.

As seen during the COVID-19 crisis, the country is again dealing with more demand than available supply, causing a significant increase in price for eggs, forcing families to find alternatives for the classic breakfast staple.

Nursing Student Hannah Burcaro lives in a household of 10 people where they have contemplated getting chickens themselves. “We are more aware of using [eggs],” Burcaro said, noting she now has oatmeal for breakfast.

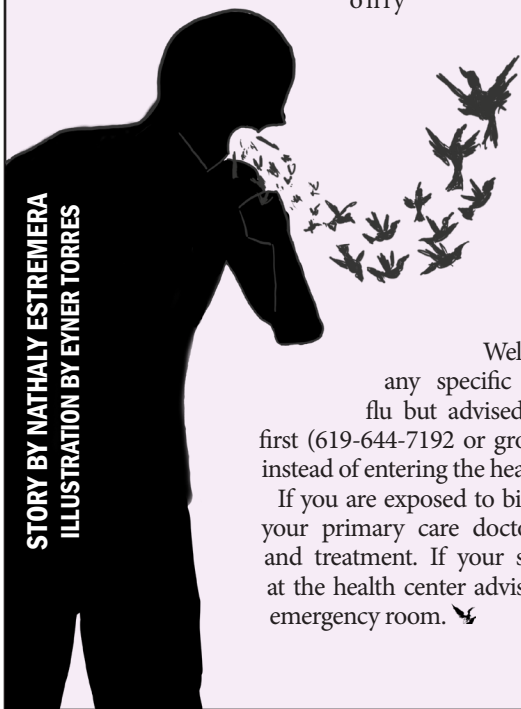
Not only are students directly affected, but so is the Culinary Arts Department. Facilitator Christmas Ochoa, who is responsible for supply orders, shared how the price of eggs have nearly doubled since last year. Last spring semester, a case of 15 dozen eggs cost \$70; an order made this semester cost \$163 per case. “We’ve seen the prices fluctuate quite a bit, but this is the most that we’ve seen it at,” Ochoa said.

Since all meals are prepared from scratch, the Culinary Arts Department goes through 15 dozen eggs in just one week. The team consistently finds creative ways to use ingredients wisely and minimize waste. For example, some recipes only require egg yolks.

When that happens, the unused egg whites are frozen and saved for future use. Ochoa explained that they work hard to reduce waste by using resources thoughtfully and composting as much as possible.

Grossmont’s Health and Wellness Center did not have any specific protocol regarding avian flu but advised students to call or email first (619-644-7192 or grossmont.health@gcccd.edu) instead of entering the health center.

If you are exposed to bird flu, go to urgent care or your primary care doctor for a proper diagnosis and treatment. If your symptoms are severe, staff at the health center advise you to go directly to the emergency room. 🐦



STORY BY NATHALY ESTREMEIRA
ILLUSTRATION BY EYNER TORRES

BE HEARD

Upcoming ASGC elections will let student voices shape the next year.

BY SAUL RUIZ

The Associated Students of Grossmont College has opened its doors to various board member positions on campus. This opportunity allows any student at Grossmont College to gain team experience and work closely with the school, which means anyone can fill out an application to join the ASGC board.

Two of the major candidates running for the position of ASGC president are board members who are already working with the school in shared efforts to better the campus. Those members are the current ASGC President Lu Tri “Vi” Huynh and the current ASGC Vice President Kalia Nakamura, who is also the Inter-Club Council President. Both candidates have worked in collaboration with campus clubs and faculty in efforts to improve and maintain positive student life on campus.

Vi said he began his studies at Grossmont about two years ago, soon after beginning his journey in student politics. As a computer science major, Vi represented the Grossmont Science Club and computer science organizations for the Inter-Club Council (ICC). After attending one meeting, Vi said he was drawn to the board and the positions held.

“It was not as intimidating as I thought,” he said. “We share with each other the progress, what we’re doing with clubs and what plans we have for the semester ahead.”

Vi said he was also inspired by the then-ASGC vice president to take action and become involved. Once attending an ICC meeting with the ASGC board, Vi was sworn in as a member on the spot.

The following year, Vi won the race to be ASGC vice president for the 2024-25 school year. It was when the president of ASGC at the time had to step down that Vi was promoted to president. Subsequently, Kalia Nakamura assumed the role of vice president and president of ICC.

Vi is an advocate for student unions on campus and claims to want as many student voices to be heard as possible. He said he feels confident in his abilities as ASGC president.

Nakamura said she intends to create a community on campus where as many clubs as possible are seen and connected. She has taken on similar responsibilities in overseeing clubs and making sure they get funding and an advisor to oversee them.

“I help coordinate club rush and all that and helped some uncharted clubs grow like Dr. Pepper Club,” Nakamura said regarding on her responsibilities as ICC president.

The ASGC is expecting new faces as a result of this current election.

“It’s been very refreshing to have new people on the board that come in with good vibes and positivity and new ideas,” Nakamura said. “With working on our teamwork within ASGC we’ve been able to be successful in hosting some events like Club Rush.”

Any Grossmont student can apply to be a part of ASGC online; all students have the opportunity to have their voices heard. Applications are currently open, and elections will be held online April 23 and 24. 🐦

Grossmont Goes Gourmet

Experience a full-course meal at a student-run restaurant.

Story by Daneyra Ramirez

A Grossmont College, the fine dining series is in full force. Throughout the semester, the culinary students provide a seven-course fine dining experience open to the public. This is done so students get a taste of real-world industry experience.

Fine dining is a service course culinary students can take. The students turn their classroom into a fully functioning restaurant on Thursday nights. At the beginning of the semester, they stick to one menu, and every student has a role to make the service run smoothly.

From cooking and plating to serving and greeting guests at the door, students get the chance to work in every role needed in a restaurant. "You learn everything from the front of the house to the back of the house in a fine dining atmosphere," Professor Marianne Daquino said.

Culinary Student Roxio Piña said, "Our instructors do everything that they can to still remain knowledgeable about what's going on in the industry even outside of the program, and so as a student, I feel prepared moving forward to go into the culinary field equipped and relevant."

In the second half of the semester, the students switch to a new menu and roles. From April 17 through May 15, they serve their second menu every Thursday.

The food served at these dinners is locally sourced based on what is in season, and the meals are made completely from scratch by the students.

The culinary program is different from standard culinary institutes. Grossmont spends several weeks on one technique,

allowing students to sharpen that skill, compared to a larger institute with a higher tuition, which may spend a few days on the same technique. They use these skills to provide the full experience for the guests, including sharing knowledge learned throughout the semester.

The students learn to explain a menu and how to properly serve a table. Fine dining guests are free to ask any questions about what they are eating, how it was prepared, or anything else they want to know.

Student Melissa Burrows said she likes to promote education to guests and speak with them about how their dinner was made.

"I like to give my guests information, and take the guests on a culinary adventure with me," Burrows said.

The guests are asked to provide feedback on the back of the menus once they leave.

As a guest of Burrows', one would receive many delights. The course includes an *amuse-bouche*, which is like a bite-sized appetizer, a salad, a soup, the entree, then coffee and petit fours, which are small desserts. Extra food is included, and made to-go, all for \$45. ♡



Design by Britza Marquez



BY PHILICIA TONANGOYE AND NATHALY ESTREMER

On January 1969, after witnessing the devastation caused by a massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California, Sen. Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin, who had long been concerned about the decline of the environment in the United States, aimed to raise awareness of the emerging public consciousness regarding air and water pollution.

Motivated by the student anti-war movement, Nelson aimed to channel the enthusiasm of those students to this cause and announced the idea of a campus teach-in to the national media.

Nelson recruited young activist Denis Hayes to organize the campus teach-ins and selected April 22, a weekday between spring break and final exams, to maximize student participation. Hayes then built a national staff of 85 people to promote events and in 1970, many Americans found themselves observing Earth Day for the first time.

To observe this day at Grossmont, you can adopt sustainable habits, like sorting waste into recyclables, general waste and compost, containers for which are available across campus.

Gizmo's Closet is also a resource for students to repurpose clothing items. It accepts clothing donations and distributes them by appointment or on a walk-in basis, allowing students to see what is available. This initiative also promotes sustainability by addressing overconsumption and helping to protect our planet.

The First-Year Experience (FYE) will also be hosting its first Book and Clothing Swap in Griffin Gate, April 15 from 3 to 5 p.m. It will be led by peer mentors from the FYE and SOGI – the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity – club leaders.

Grossmont continues to explore environmentally friendly solutions. For example, Sheree Stopper, vice president of



Do you have cubicle claustrophobia? In need of a new place to study?

Visit GHD's Health & Wellness Library

We have Wifi, computers, copier, and quiet study rooms to assist GCC students with your studies

We are a public library featuring:

- Access to Gale Health Reference Center Academic
- Access to Gale Health and Wellness Resource Center
- Access to TRC Natural Medicines Database
- Private study rooms

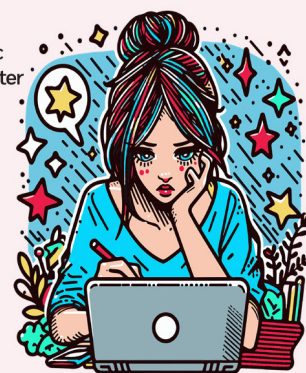
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Health & Wellness Library
An East County community resource

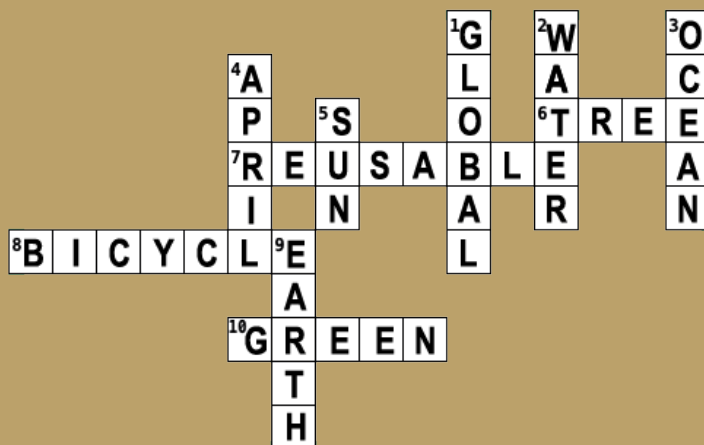
Administrative Services, shared how the campus used to use fish in the pool to naturally control mosquitoes, reducing the need for chemical treatments. The Culinary Arts Department also makes a consistent effort to compost food scraps like eggshells, reinforcing its commitment to sustainability, according to Facilitator Christmas Ochoa.

To celebrate Earth Day, the FYE will be hosting a Sustainability Fair at the main quad on April 22, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 🐾



BRAIN BOOST SOLUTIONS

[PUZZLES ON PAGE 5]



REEL TALK

DYSTOPIAN DISASTER

Sometimes watching fictional futures fall apart makes reality feel a little bit better.



CIVIL WAR

| Review by Nathaly Estremera

What if America did experience a civil war? The A24 film *Civil War*, directed by Alex Garland, allows you to experience a modern-day division within a country through the eyes of four journalists. It features well-known war photographer Lee Smith (Kirsten Dunst) racing to the front lines with her colleagues and an aspiring photojournalist, Jamie (Callie Spaeny), for an impossible interview with the president. The film provides a raw depiction of war along with shocking images. Hopefully, a civil war in America remains part of a dystopian future. But war, heartache and death are happening now, and *Civil War* calls attention to those events currently happening around the world. However, a strong stomach is needed if you decide to watch this movie.



UGLIES

| Review by Sandra Vidrio

In a world where beauty is the only thing humans can possess, uglies and pretties cannot coexist in the same environment. Every human is born “ugly” and is forced to live in Uglyville. However, at the age of 16, they get the chance to get a transformational surgery to become pretty and move to New Pretty Town. *Uglies* tells the story of Tally Youngblood (Joey King), a 15-year-old girl who is anxiously waiting to turn 16 to get the surgery that would make her pretty and transfer her life completely. While waiting for her surgery, Tally meets Shay (Brianne Tju) who tells her about “The Smoke,” a place where the runaway uglies who refuse to get the surgery hide. Shay says The Smoke is great because they have “more important” things to think about in life. The film has a good pace, but the end feels a little rushed. However, *Uglies* is a movie loved by the audience due to the message behind it, as well as the visuals implemented.



THE PURGE

| Review by Anthony Seaton

Run, hide or purge? The 2013 *The Purge*, one of the most well-known dystopian films, presents a chilling scenario where – for 12 hours annually – beginning March 21, all criminal activity, including murder, is legal in the United States. Written and directed by James DeMonaco, the film quickly gained widespread recognition and became part of the prevailing cultural conversation. The premise is centered on a family's secure lockdown, which is disrupted when they shelter a wounded stranger. This act draws the attention of masked individuals demanding the family to hand over the stranger, forcing the family to confront the brutal reality of the yearly purge. While DeMonaco's work on the franchise is notable and introduces a completely fresh concept, this initial inaugural film lacks the broader societal impact and compelling characters found in later films. However, like its sequels, *The Purge* features a high body count, bringing a whole new level of tension to the genre and ultimately exploring themes of class disparity and the fragility of societal norms, ultimately leaving the viewer with a sense of unease about human nature. If that's your type of movie, *The Purge* is a must-watch, and is probably the scariest one made, with well-developed jump scares.

